Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00781 181751Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0781

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS GE GW
SUBJ: SPECULATION CONTINUES ON EARLY REPLACEMENT OF MICHAEL KOHL;
BIO DATA ON HERBERT HAEBER AND DR. HEINZ KOSIN

REF: A. USBERLIN 0647; B. EMBASSY BERLIN A-28

1. REFTEL (PARA) REPORTED THAT HERBERT HAEBER, CHIEF OF THE WEST SECTION IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED, WAS BEING MENTIONED AS A LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO MICHAEL KOHL AS GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN.

2. THE MISSION HAS SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM THE SAME FRG SOURCE THAT ALTHOUGH HAEBER, A CONFIDANT OF FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER, MAY HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK ON THE BONN JOB IF KOHL IS REPLACED, THE SO-CALLED "SECURITY GROUP" WITHIN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (PAUL VERNER, WERNER LAMBERZ AMONG OTHERS) MAY BE PROMOTING THEIR OWN CANDIDATE--DR. HANS VOSS, GDR AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS-TO OFFSET WHAT THEY FEAR MIGHT BE "UNMANAGEABLE" CONTACTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS WERE ONE OF HONECKER'S OWN PROTEGES TO BE SENT TO BONN. VOSS IS SAID TO QUALIFY FOR THE BONN POST ON THE BASIS OF HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00781 181751Z

EXPERIENCE, PRIOR TO SERVING IN BUCHAREST, AS HEAD OF THE WEST GERMAN SECTION OF THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HAVING ADVANCED TO THE UPPER ECHELON OF THE GDR SYSTEM THROUGH THE GOVERNMENTAL/DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL RATHER THAN THROUGH THE PARTY APPARATUS, VOSS IS PRESUMABLY CONSIDERED MORE TRUSTWORTHLY BY THE "SECURITY GROUP" TO REPRESENT THE GDR IN BONN.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMARY BIO DATA ON HAEVER AND ALSO ON DR. HEINZ KOSIN, A LEADING MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (IPW) WHO IT IS RUMORED, WOULD ACCOMPANY HAEVER TO BONN AS HIS DEPUTY.

4. (A) HAEVER WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 15, 1930 IN ZWICKAU IN SAXONY. IN THE IMMEDIATE POSTWAR PERIOD HE WORKED AS A "PEOPLE'S CORRESPONDENT" IN ZWICKAU FOLLOWING WHICH IN 1947 HE ATTENDED A SPECIAL COURSE AT THE YOUTH SCHOOL AT BOGENSEE. THROUGH THE BERLIN PARTY ORGANIZATION, HAEVER SWITCHED OVER IN 1951 TO THE APPARATUS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) WHERE HE WORKED AS A FUNCTIONARY CONTINUALLY UNTIL 1965, FIRST AS AN INSTRUCTOR, THEN AS DEPUTY HEAD OF SECTION AND FINALLY AS HEAD OF THE SECTION DEALING WITH WEST GERMAN AFFAIRS. FROM 1965-71 HAEVER SERVED AS DEPUTY TO JOACHIM HERRMANN, WHO AT THAT TIME WAS PERMANENT STATE SECRETARY FOR ALL GERMAN AND LATER WEST GERMAN AFFAIRS. EVER SINCE THAT ASSOCIATION HAEBER HAS BEEN CONSIDERED A PROTEGE OF HERRMANN AND THROUGH HIM INDIRECTLY OF HONECKER. AS HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED IPW BETWEEN 1971 AND 1973, HAEBER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CO-ORDINATING THE RESEARCH EFFORTS OF THE 500 EMPLOYEES OF THE IPW WHO DELVE INTO EVERY ASPECT OF FRG LIFE. SIMUL-TANEOUS WITH TAKING OVER CONTROL OF THE IPW, HAEVER WAS AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE.
(B) IN 1973 HAEBER REJOINED THE STAFF OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE BEHEST OF HERRMANN (WHO HAD BECOME A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THAT BODY), TO HEAD THE WEST SECTION.
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HAEBER REACHED THE PINNACLE OF HIS CAREER ON MAY 22, 1976 WHEN HE WAS NAMED BY THE 9TH PARTY CONGRESS TO BE A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HAEBER IS MARRIED AND RESIDES AT SCHARZMARERSTRASSE 72 IN EAST BERLIN; THE COUPLE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ONE SCHOOL-AGE CHILD.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT APART FROM THE STIGMA CONNECTED WITH MICHAEL KOHL, WHICH MAKES HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN BONN AN EMBARRASSMENT TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SPD, THERE IS LIKELY ANOTHER REASON WHY THE FRG WOULD NOT BE DISPLEASED TO SEE KOHL REPLACED BY A MAN WITH HAEVER'S IMPRESSIVE PARTY CREDENTIALS; THE LATTER'S PRESENCE IN BONN WOULD ASSURE THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT ACCESS TO HONECKER.

6. DR. HEINZ KOSIN, THE OFFICIAL MENTIONED AS HAEBER'S CHOICE TO BE HIS DEPUTY AT THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN BONN, WAS BORN ON MARCH 7, 1926 IN BERLIN. A CON-STRUCTION MECHANIC AND TECHNICIAN BY TRADE, KOSIN SERVED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

FOR A SHORT PERIOD IN 1944 IN THE REICH LABOR SERVICE AND
IN THE GERMAN ARMY. HE LATER BECAME AN AIR FORCE PILOT
AND WAS CAPTURED BY THE US FORCES. IN 1949, HE ENTERED
THE ARBEITER UND BAUERN FAKULTAET IN BERLIN WHERE HE
EARNED HIS ABITUR; HE CONTINUED HIS STUDIES UNTIL
1956 AT THE HUMBOLT UNIVERSITY SPECIALIZING IN PHILOSOPHY.
FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS KOSIN SERVED AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT
AT THE HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY. DURING THE PERIOD 1961-71
NOTHING IS KNOWN OF KOSIN'S CAREER, AND IT IS SUSPECTED
THAT HE MAY HAVE UNDERGONE SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING.
KOSIN REEMERGED IN 1971 ON THE STAFF OF THE IPW (WHICH
HAEBER THEN HEADED), SERVING IN THE MAIN DEPARTMENT (HAUPT-
ABTEILUNG), WHICH WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE
STATE SECURITY SERVICE (SSD). ALTHOUGH KOSIN HAS FUNC-
TIONED ONLY AS A PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE IN THE IPW, HE HAS
ENJOYED THE REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF THE MOST INFLU-
ENTIAL MEMBERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION. THE FACT THAT KOSIN
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 00781 181751Z

REPORTEDLY IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE IMPORTANT POST
OF COUNSELOR AT THE GDR PERM REP INDICATES THE IMPORTANCE
THE SED ATTACHES TO THIS OFFICIAL. FOR SEVERAL YEARS
KOSIN HAS MAINTAINED REGULAR CONTACTS WITH US
DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN BERLIN, INITIALLY THROUGH THE
EASTERN AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE MISSION AND OVER THE PAST
EIGHTEEN MONTHS WITH THE EMBASSY.GEORGE

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